

EXHIBIT 4
DATE April 17, 2015
HB SB 194

February 9, 2015

To Mary Caferro and fellow legislators,

I am writing this e-mail to bring to your attention and hopefully that you will truly consider not for just myself but all other low income seniors who would qualify for the "Renters Credit", through the state of

Montana, except for the fact that last year the state decided to change back to an old law that discriminates against any of us seniors that would qualify for it but the owners of our residences don't pay taxes.

So we lose the credit that all other renters in low income properties get to claim.

I would still get it if this weren't a tax write-off for the owners. I really need that to help me get through the extra things that are beyond my usual monthly expenses, i.e. my car license, co- pays for my handicapped son who lives with me, insurance plan for his medications etc. Please don't let us down and allow yet another injustice to seniors and handicapped people slip under the carpet.

Respectfully,

Donna

Sanders

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SB 194 puts into law what has been in practice since the early 1980. A tax break for people who rent, are low-income, and elderly. The question before you is this: is this money better off in the pockets of the government or in the pockets of people who are low-income and elderly.

For over thirty years people who are elderly and low-income have received a tax credit regardless of where they live, or who they rent from, through the elderly homeowner renter tax.

Last year people who are elderly and low-income saw their taxes increased and that is not right.

For the first time over thirty years elderly will no longer receive the tax credit because DOR found out that DOR was not applying the law correctly.

My bill puts into place what has been common practice for about thirty years. If my bill passes, people who are *elderly and low-income* will not see their taxes increase and will qualify for the elderly home owner renter tax credit no matter who they rent from.

Please don't punish the elderly renter because they happen to rent from a non-profit rather than a for-profit or from the government. Please support my bill so that no matter **where** an elderly person rents, if they are low-income they qualify for the tax credit. Please support my bill so that no matter what kind of tax breaks a landlord receives, the renter, who does not benefit from the landlord's tax breaks, is provided some much needed assistance.

My two constituents, who are about to see their taxes raised, are both 79 year old women living off of the social security that they earned. One adopted her great grandson when he was days old. She spends her \$179.00 tax break for school clothes and saves the rest for his summer birthday gift. (her great grandson is now fifteen) The other woman lives with her son who is an adult with developmental disabilities. She spends her tax break on his premium for his insurance. They both pay almost \$500.00/month in rent plus they pay for their utilities.

This money would mean so much more in the pockets of people who are elderly and low-income than in the general fund. As you can see people depend on this money. Please vote no to raising taxes on the elderly who are low-income and please vote yes on SB 194.

SB 194 passed out of Finance and Claims unanimously and the Senate Tax Committee 7-2 and the Senate floor with 48 and 47 yes votes. Please vote for senior citizens.

Senator Mary Caferro